

***The Office of Adolescent Health Recognizes  
Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month:  
Evidence + Collaboration = Better Outcomes***

Tuesday, May 10, 2011 (10 AM–12 PM)  
HHS, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Great Hall

*Summary of remarks by:*  
Howard Koh, M.D., M.P.H.  
Assistant Secretary for Health  
Department of Health and Human Services

Dr. Koh noted that this event is the first time the federal community has come together to recognize the importance of teen pregnancy prevention, an indication of the progress made by both HHS and the country. Secretary Sebelius has identified the reduction of teen and unintended pregnancy as one of her priorities and Dr. Koh detailed a few of the ways that HHS is answering that charge, by using inter-agency collaborations to improve the health of all adolescents. Specifically, Dr. Koh highlighted the following activities:

- HHS’s response strategy to teen pregnancy prevention. HHS’ response draws on the expertise of both the public health and human services arms of the Department working in partnership. This important partnership spans three key areas:
  - Investing in evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention strategies;
  - Targeting populations at highest risk for teen pregnancy and that are currently underserved, including minority populations and foster care and homeless youth;
  - Increasing access to local, clinical services.
- Healthy People 2020 (HP2020). The importance of preventing and reducing teen pregnancy is also evident in the national health objectives for year 2020. HP2020 is an ambitious, yet achievable, 10-year agenda for improving the Nation’s health with four main goals:
  - Achieve health equity, eliminate disparities and improve health for all groups;
  - Eliminate preventable disease, disability, injury and premature death;
  - Promote quality of life, healthy development, and healthy behaviors across life stages; and
  - Create social and physical environments that promote good health for all.
- “Health in all policies” strategy. HP2020’s last goal highlights the social-determinants approach for health in the 21st century, that is, the conditions in which people live, learn, labor, and play. And so, for 2020 and beyond, health is too important to be left solely in the hands of those working in the health sector.
- HP2020 for adolescents. The HP2020 objectives now include a new chapter focused on the health of adolescents, which include important objectives: The Family Planning Objective (FP 8) to “Reduce Pregnancy Rates among Adolescent Females.”; and the HIV Objective (HIV17) to “Increase the Proportion of Sexually Active Persons Who Use Condoms.”
- The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program. To help reach our overall goals, the new Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPP) leverages the combination of a variety of initiatives across HHS divisions, including ACF, ASPE, CDC, HRSA, OWH, and OPA.
- Partnerships and accomplishments. This development and building of partnerships across HHS has lead to many accomplishments this year in the area of Teen Pregnancy Prevention:

- OAH and ASPE executed the evidence review on teenage pregnancy prevention program models and continue to work together for the next round of the evidence review currently underway.
- OAH, CDC, and ACF have successfully started the piloting, planning, and readiness phase with their grantees.
- OAH, ACF, and ASPE are working together to oversee the extensive evaluation efforts of the TPP program.
- OAH has also worked closely with OWH and OPA to develop consistent and accurate messaging for campaign strategies and materials.